

FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Minutes from July 9, 2020

Sam Nunnally called the monthly meeting of the Fair Commission on July 9, 2020 to order at 6:30 pm.

Sam asked City Councilmember Kyle Watermen to lead the group on the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call of members: all members were present.

Staff present: Mark Campbell

Guests present: Michele Reese, Susan Plummer, Kristen Larson, Kyle Waterman, Sharon Askelson, Hillary Hanson, Nori Pearce, Justin Heupel, Kaitlyn Bennett, Ginger May, Mark Lalum, Joe Unterreiner, and Kevin Fritz.

Agenda approval: Doug motioned to accept agenda, Jessica Treweek seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Past meeting minutes: Minutes from the June 11th, 2020 Fair Board meeting were presented for review. Doug moved to approve the minutes as presented. Jessica Treweek seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public comment: No public comment was presented.

Unfinished Business – Sam provided a brief overview of the topic and asked for introductions by all in attendance and the role they have with the Fair.

Continued review of 2020 NW Montana Fair & Rodeo & COVID plans.

- a. Hillary Hanson with the Health Dept. went over COVID numbers and stated we are seeing steady cases and monitoring them. Currently monitoring 33 cases with 5 of those being out of state. More tools have been put in place. Doug asked about age groups being affected, Hillary states they are not seeing children, but younger adults. Weddings, parties and bars are the highest exposure. Pam Holmquist asked about testing, Hillary responded they are testing more and have been able to catch some before they are symptomatic.
- b. Sam Nunnally believes the Fairground is an educational component, with our biggest element being Market sale, 4H and FFA. Sam then asked Mark Campbell to go over plans for the Trade Center. Mark states the redesign of the pens, readjusted and moved to better accommodate our expected higher stock number and to better distance people. Meals provided are required as grab and go and the bleachers reserved for buyers only on Saturday. Mark asked if we can limit or omit large groups from clubs and only allow family groups for camping or gatherings. Sam asks Justin or Nori for any comments, Justin had a question about the livestock show itself, Mark Campbell suggests working together and mark off seats as necessary and will work together to address and finalize these steps. Jessica asked about congestion during delivery and washing animals, this will be addressed as we move forward. Mark gave numbers for livestock and will consider restricting open class as needed. Nori asks if Showmanship and Market be done simultaneously to reduce gathering and speed the day.

Mark Lalum asked about masks being required for all exhibitors and judges when in close contact, arena and possibly a sign in the Trade Center with requirements and expectations.

Weigh in needs to be controlled access. This pandemic will require changes and prioritizing for Showmanship, Round Robin, etc. Justin brings up 2 days of judging and states we need to sync everything and bringing them in early is not an option. Jessica and Justin talk about temperature checks, screening for fever of 100.4 and a possibility of using County Health website as a self-check tool.

Doug is confident in the plan and moved to go forward with Fair. Helen Keil seconds, motion passed unanimously. We will continue to work together and adjust as needed. Sam asks if the virtual sales are even an option. Kaitlyn answered yes, it is possible and adds more choices for your buyers.

Mark Campbell states he has been looking into the virtual sale for market animals along with live. Todd Gardner of Gardner Auction service will be invited to the Chamber Ag Committee for further review. Discussion about this option continued.

Mark Campbell provided an overview of other Fair programs being worked on, such as the concert party pit. Carnival, gate operations, promotions to shift attendance earlier in the day, were reviewed and discussion on each component. Carnival operations is seeking variances within their contract this year. Those items were covered and Fair will continue to finalize an amendment for Boards consideration.

New Business

- a. Sam asks about future meetings to continue reviewing needs. Mark Carlson suggests meeting each week on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Doug Wise moves to vote to meet weekly at 630 and Mark seconds, motion passes.

Committee or Member Reports – no reports were heard.

Manager's report

- a. Fairgrounds reports were provided including upcoming activities, current work projects, and items accomplished.
- b. NW Montana Fair & Rodeo update – Mark Campbell provided an overview of current rodeo situation along with concerns about border crossing and costs going forward. Board members shared their individual thoughts about going forward. The contract will be further reviewed with County Attorney's office and further discussion scheduled.
- c. Other

Adjournment: Doug moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM, seconded by Mark. All were in favor.

Submitted by: mc

Approved as submitted:



Chair

7-30-2020

Date